

REMARKS

R INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 13, 28, and 30-33 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 4, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-12, and 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form, and that claims 2-12 are now allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth therein. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 32 overcomes the Examiner's rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner rejected claims 13-15 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,350,874 – hereinafter Nishikawa). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, 14, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harneit (U.S. Patent No. 6,260,478 – hereinafter Harneit) in view of Gschwind (U.S. Patent No. 6,502,504 – hereinafter Gschwind). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 3, the Examiner rejected claims 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa in view of Pearlman (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,362 – hereinafter Pearlman). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and

therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form.

Amended, independent claim 1 recites: "...a heat reflecting unit, removably mounted in the body via a second opening therein, and arranged below the grill unit to reflect heat transferred from the heating unit toward the grill unit...."

Amended, independent claim 13 recites: "...a heating unit mounted in the body; a heat reflecting unit, removably mounted in the body, to reflect heat from the heating unit...."

Amended, independent claim 28 recites: "...wherein the removable heat reflecting unit is sized to enter and exit an opening in the body."

Amended, independent claim 30 recites: "...the reflecting plates comprise inner reflecting plates, non-coplanarly joined at first edges thereof, and outer reflecting plates, each non-coplanarly joined to a second edge of one of the inner reflecting plates."

And amended, independent claim 33 recites: "...the removable heat reflecting unit is sized to enter and exit an opening in the body."

Regarding the §102 rejection, Nishikawa discloses a hot air electric oven with a base 1 and an outer case 9 that is removably fitted to the base 1. The outer case 9 has a heat shield 13 installed therein, separated from the outer casing 9, and in cooperation with the base 1, defining a roasting chamber 25 therein. The outer case 9 has a ceiling 15, and a reflector 16 is disposed to extend between the heat shield 13 and the ceiling 15, thereby defining two chambers: an upper radiation chamber that is vented using a fan 21 and exhaust hole 26, and a lower heating chamber 18. Sheath heater 23 heats air that is blown into roasting chamber 25 via turbo fan 22. Motor 19 operates both fan 21 and turbo fan 22. (See Nishikawa, at FIGS. 1 and 2, and col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 38).

But Nishikawa neither discloses nor suggests that reflector 16 is removably mounted in outer case 9.

Additionally, with respect to claim 30, Nishikawa neither discloses nor suggests that reflector 16 comprises inner reflecting plates, non-coplanarly joined at first edges thereof, and outer reflecting plates, each non-coplanarly joined to a second edge of one of the inner reflecting plates.

Regarding the §103 rejection asserting the combination of Harneit and Gschwind, Harneit discloses first and second drip panels 13 and 15 that are crimped, respectively, to a first edge 8 of first sidewall 7, and second edge 10 of second sidewall 9. The crimps 19 of the drip panels hold the drip panels such that respective drain-off ends 21 do not rest on drip pan 23. While Harneit discloses that drip pan 23 is removable, Harneit neither discloses nor suggests that drip panels 13 and 15 are removable. Gschwind fails to cure this defect.

Regarding the §103 rejection asserting the combination of Nishikawa and Pearlman, as noted above, Nishikawa neither discloses nor suggests that reflector 16 is removably mounted in outer case 9. Pearlman fails to cure this defect.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 13, 28, 30, and 33 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14-27, 29, 31, and 32, which variously depend from independent claims 13, 28, or 30, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 13, 28, or 30, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

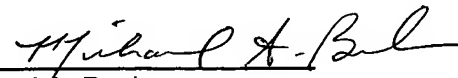
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If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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